The Supreme Court is also monitoring the implementation of the Report of FNJPC in W.P. No. 1022/1989- All India Judges Association *Vs.* UOI. The matter came up for hearing before the Supreme Court on 8.2.2001 and it has been adjourned to 27.3.2001.

Legislation to curb money and muscle power in elections

453. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to bring forward legislation to curb money and muscle power in elections;

(b) whether it is proposed to debar criminals from contesting elections to Parliament and State Legislatures; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be taken and a law in this regard enforced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) In view of the growing incidence/allegations of use of money and muscle power in elections and entry of criminal elements into electoral politics, recommendations have been made from time by different bodies and individuals like the Committee on Electoral Reforms (Dinesh Goswami Committee), the Committee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee), the Law Commission of India (170th Report on Reform of Elelctoral Laws), the Election Commission of India, *etc.* for curbing these tendencies. The reform of electoral laws is, however, a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties, which is a time consuming process and, therefore, no time frame can be suggested in this regard. Government, however, intends to continue interaction with the political parties in this regard.

Fast track system for disposal of court cases

454. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has suggested evolving a "fast track system" to reduce the backlog of cases and providing cheap and speedy justice;

(b) if so, whether in view of mounting of arrears of over two crore cases over 24 lakh cases pending in the High Courts, it is necessary that "fast track system" in judiciary should be adopted;